

August 22, 2002

The Honorable Gray Davis  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

Assembly Republicans are respectfully requesting that you support our efforts to ensure that Californians are not unnecessarily harmed by the State's fiscal crisis. As your administration continues to prepare expenditure reduction plans as directed by the Department of Finance, we believe that it would be more than appropriate to ensure that necessary services can continue without interruption. To that end, Republicans are recommending that the Legislature pass legislation that include limited appropriations in order to keep Californians from harm as the work to maintain the State's fiscal health continues.

As you know, State Constitutional provisions require the Governor to recommend that an appropriation bill be deemed an emergency bill in order for it to be sent for your approval prior to the enactment of the budget act. Therefore, as a matter of logistical procedure, Republicans are requesting that you present a letter to the Legislature acknowledging the urgency of the State's current fiscal crisis, and articulating the need to protect the state's vulnerable populations.

The sooner you use your Constitutional powers as Governor, the sooner we can ensure that, among other things, state vendors are paid, regional centers for developmentally disabled people continue to operate, and California students will receive their Cal Grant awards. Once you make such a declaration, Republicans will stand wholeheartedly in support of passing an interim financing bill out of the Legislature and onto your desk for your signature. At the same time, we are prepared to work with you on coming to agreement on a budget solution. During this current budget debate, Republicans have been pushing to reduce government spending in order to avoid the multi-billion dollar ongoing deficit issues that the Legislative Analyst's office has been warning about. Once the Legislature receives the expenditure reduction plans we requested from you on August 12, 2002, we can expeditiously move towards making reductions in the 2002-03 budget and be one step closer to a budget solution.

Members of the Assembly Republican Caucus are united in our attempt to protect those who may be harmed by the budget problems the state is experiencing, while at the same time solidifying the State's fiscal footing. Without ensuring the long term financial health of the State, it is a matter of time before we will find ourselves in the midst of an unprecedented State bankruptcy. Let me be clear, it is our goal to protect California's population in the short-term by passing an interim financing bill, and we need for you to begin working with us on crafting a responsible budget to ensure that the State's population is protected in the long-term.

Passing the 2002-03 budget as it is currently proposed will, at best, result in budget deficits for years to come; and at worst, lead the State into bankruptcy that would harm all Californians. Governing this state responsibly requires us to attend to the needs of Californians in the short term while crafting a budget solution that protects their interests in the long run.

Republicans ask that you join us in supporting an interim spending measure. The sooner you can agree to sign such a measure that will hold Californians harmless, the more comfort the State will have that we can come to a reasonable resolution to the fiscal crisis our State faces. No Californian should be faced with the difficult budget situation that we have before us. Just as importantly, no Californian should be faced with an even worse situation next year or the following five years.

My Assembly Republican leadership team is prepared to meet with you on a daily basis to make the tough decisions necessary to avoid the fiscal train wreck that awaits Californians. Respectfully, we ask that you join us in putting together a budget plan that makes sense for the State.

Sincerely,

DaveCox  
Assembly Republican Leader

